

GOVERNOR FLETCHER MAKES THE CASE FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH LAB



Governor Ernie Fletcher along with Congressman Hal Rogers (R-Somerset), state cabinet secretaries and officials from the universities of Kentucky, Louisville and Tennessee and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, made their case for the commonwealth to become the home of the new National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF). The Kentucky/Tennessee NBAF Consortium Expression of Interest was submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 31st.

The consortium is led by the states of Kentucky and Tennessee and includes the universities of Kentucky, Louisville and Tennessee and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The consortium also includes economic and development organizations from the commonwealth. The consortium also is in discussions with other national and regional institutions concerning their joining the group.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is proposing to build the NBAF to meet the demand for increasing levels of research and testing for foreign animal and zoonotic

diseases. The department has determined current U.S. laboratory capabilities are inadequate to meet future research requirements.

The NBAF would provide the nation with its first integrated agricultural, zoonotic diseases and public health research, development and testing facility.

“Securing a facility of this level will bring substantial economic development to southeastern Kentucky,” said Governor Fletcher. “A research lab will also increase the research capacity of the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Researchers from across our nation will come to work and live in the commonwealth.”

If the consortium’s proposal is ultimately selected, the new bio-defense lab would be located in Pulaski County, Kentucky, at a site approximately 12 miles northeast of Somerset. The lab would create hundreds of jobs both during construction and afterword. An economic study of the proposed facility indicates it will support more than 400 jobs with an annual local payroll of more than \$30 million. Construction of the lab alone will create \$262 million in new payrolls.

(Continued on pg. 6)

GOVERNOR FLETCHER ANNOUNCED STATE BRAC TASK FORCE

Governor Ernie Fletcher and Congressman Ron Lewis (R-Cecilia) have announced the creation of a state level Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Task Force.

The task force will oversee and work with the communities surrounding Fort Knox in preparing for the arrival of thousands of new military and civilian employees and their families and millions of dollars for new construction resulting from last year’s national BRAC recommendations.

An estimated 5,000 military and civilian personnel will relocate to Kentucky. The commonwealth was one of the few states with significant growth as a result of last year’s BRAC recommendations.

“This presents a tremendous economic opportunity and challenge for the commonwealth,” said Governor Fletcher. “I am very proud of the role Kentucky will play in strengthening our nation’s defense.”

The economic impact of the BRAC recommendations is estimated at \$250 million in additional salaries and nearly \$500 million over the next three to five years for new military construction.

“We attribute our tremendous success to a team effort at every level,” said Governor Fletcher. “This includes the local community, the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs and the outstanding support we received from Kentucky’s Congressional delegation.”

The aim of the task force is to provide assistance to the Fort Knox commu-

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A Letter From Governor Fletcher



It's springtime in Kentucky

By: Ernie Fletcher
Governor of Kentucky

The session is over. The Kentucky General Assembly has gone home after weeks of meetings, negotiations, hearings and debates. What may look like political warfare and unconstrained self-interest is truly nothing short of a magnificent process, a process that does work in the end.

I know, at times, it may seem like nothing ever gets done on the federal, state and local levels, but it does. Our defense, health care, technology, highways, environment and communities are appreciably better now than they were decades before – and that's because of the process.

However, if you look at the news on a regular basis, it may appear the world in general and the commonwealth in particular is near the end of the line. But news is about the surface of things. Media can't capture a community's complexities in a 10-second sound bite. The truth is, we have a great life in Kentucky and it gets better every day.

Some of our initiatives and new programs this session are designed to add even more value to the daily lives of every citizen in the commonwealth. It was our aim to improve quality of place for each of our communities.

Our education package, including raises for teachers, investments in technology and additional instructional days, will create a stronger foundation for our children. Our mine safety legislation will strengthen a vital industry to the commonwealth and send an important message to all of our coal miners: We value you. News of our primary seat belt law is already saving lives. Our families, neighbors and friends are buckling up in record numbers on Kentucky's highways. In addition, we have \$350 million in highway bonds, ICARE (small business health insurance plan), the Louisville Arena and the World Equestrian Games (secured prior to the session) as concrete proof Kentucky is moving forward.

We've got it good in the Commonwealth. We know it and now the world knows it too. So tune out the static. It's springtime in Kentucky. Go out into your community and enjoy the company of your family and friends and all that is truly great about our state.

Kentucky's "Unbridled Spirit" Shows Up in an Unlikely Place

Kentucky's new brand has made its way around the world. The "Unbridled Spirit" logo has become a reminder of home for the members of Frankfort's Kentucky National Guard 63rd Aviation Group. The soldiers painted the logo on a barrier near their barracks in Kuwait.



Photo Courtesy Military Affairs

"The 63rd Aviation Group exemplifies Kentucky's Unbridled Spirit," Fletcher said. "These men and women make daily sacrifices so people in the world are able to experience a freedom and spirit of their own. The commonwealth supports you and thanks you for your service."

Vaught says this is the first time he has painted something like this and really didn't think it would have this big an effect. However, he says he is glad it helps remind everyone of home.

The men have been stationed at Camp Buehring for a year. The logo is 6 feet tall and 10 feet long. Spec. Chris Vaught, a student at Eastern Kentucky University painted the logo.

"I thought about painting our unit patch first, but then I just thought about the new logo and decided it was something that really related to home," he said.

The logo is attracting a lot of attention, too. Vaught says soldiers from Kentucky who see the logo want to sign the barrier. He says several signatures have shown up.

The painting has also gotten the attention of Governor Fletcher.

9th Annual Governor's Diversity Day

An estimated 600 students from across the Commonwealth experienced diversity in action at the 9th annual Governor's Diversity Day, held at the Frankfort Convention Center April 11th. Students experienced Latin, Asian and African American culture through dance. Young performers from King Elementary School in Louisville created a dance for Governor Fletcher. Students also witnessed the signing of a new Affirmative Action Plan Executive Order for the Commonwealth. The new plan sets out to increase the number of minorities and women hired by state agencies.

The newly established Office of Human Resource Planning and Diversity Initiatives was in charge of planning this year's event.



Top and Bottom: Governor Fletcher takes some time out to take pictures with some students. Left: Keyana Best and Alyssa Ceballos show off their traditional cultural clothing as part of a display at Diversity Day.



KSP Honors Retired State Trooper for Recruiting Efforts



Sgt. James Henry Johnson

In 1997, Johnson received the Commissioner's Commendation award for his successful recruitment of minorities and women for the Kentucky State Police Academy. That year saw a 75 percent increase in black males and a 50 percent increase in females taking the test for trooper. The resulting cadet class contained the largest number to date of females and minorities.

Johnson said he was honored to receive the award and that he will continue his efforts to make the Kentucky State Police a representative law enforcement agency.

"Everybody here knows how passionate I am about this agency and how passionate I am about diversity in this agency," said Johnson. "I have always been committed to making the Kentucky State Police look like the rest of the state."

Story submitted by Kentucky State Police

FIRST LADY GLENNA FLETCHER ANNOUNCES A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING

First Lady Glenna Fletcher along with the Office of Drug Control Policy, Kentucky State Police and the Office of Alcohol Beverage Control today announced a statewide campaign against underage drinking with a series of town hall meetings to take place across the commonwealth. The town hall meetings are an opportunity to educate parents, teachers, officials, youth and other community members about the impact of underage drinking.

The campaign is part of a national campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in partnership with the Ad Council. First Lady Glenna Fletcher will serve as Kentucky's honorary chairperson. The same agency also sponsors Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free an initiative headed by governors' spouses that targets prevention of underage drinking in elementary school students.

"Underage drinking is a serious issue we cannot ignore. The need for a public education campaign about the risks of underage drinking is absolutely crucial," said First Lady Glenna Fletcher. "In Kentucky alone, approximately 165,000 youth drink each year. We must continue to focus on prevention and education efforts to reduce underage drinking in the commonwealth."

"Although drinking under the age of 21 is illegal in all 50 states, there are still more than 10 million children in this country who drink alcohol illegally. On average, they start drinking when they are 13 years old," said Teresa Barton, executive director of the Office of Drug Control Policy. "Alcohol is far and away the most abused drug by American children."

"I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this campaign," said First Lady Glenna Fletcher. "Parents have to realize this is not a problem affecting other people's children. The numbers are very telling. This is every community's concern and will require every community's efforts."

Kentucky communities chosen to participate in the program will receive a stipend of \$1,000 from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

To view a list of scheduled town hall meetings in Kentucky visit <http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/> and click on "Town Hall Locations." For more information on Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free visit <http://www.alcoholfreechildren.org/>.



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Personnel Cabinet's Home Page

Near Real-Time "Who's In Jail" Database Up and Running in Kentucky

In March, Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence introduced a new program, JusticeXchange™, which just recently became available to the state's criminal justice community.

"It is critical that we provide our commonwealth's public safety community with the resources they need to keep our communities and families safe," said Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence. "The JusticeXchange program is a powerful investigative tool for any criminal justice official and we are pleased to have this program up and running here in Kentucky."

JusticeXchange is a web portal that provides law enforcement and other criminal justice officials instant access to information about offenders held in jails throughout the state and across the country. Based on data collected automatically from local jail management systems, JusticeXchange provides near real-time current and historical information about incarcerated offenders, including biographical information, charges, photographs, and behavioral reports, all accessible through a secure website.

Previously, law enforcement and other justice agencies had no way of tracking incarcerated offenders other than to physically call each prison facility across the state, or, if available, check each facility's website. JusticeXchange provides instant access to that information.

Although the program has only recently become operational, the JusticeXchange system has already marked successes here in Kentucky. Recently, the Louisville Metro Police Department had four felony warrants out for the arrest of an individual wanted on gun and drug charges. By using the JusticeXchange system, Metro Police were able to determine that the subject was already being held in Oldham County on lesser charges and was close to release. Metro Police were then able to track down the subject and serve felony warrants before the release.

JusticeXchange currently tracks 100% of state and local jail beds in Kentucky. The system also accounts for 43 % of all county jail beds throughout the country. Currently, data from 27 states is in JusticeXchange. Kentucky is one of at least seven states that have launched a statewide JusticeXchange system. Other states include Arkansas, New York, Washington, Utah, Texas and Florida.

JusticeXchange was implemented through a partnership with Louisville-based Appriss, Inc., provider of the VINE® service. The funding for the program was provided through the Louisville Metro's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant and the Louisville Metro Criminal Justice Commission, the Unified Criminal Justice Information System (UCJIS) and the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP).

For more information about JusticeXchange, please visit, www.appriss.com/JusticeXchange.html.

Story Submitted by Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

KENTUCKY OFFICE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS RELEASES 2006 LIST OF INVESTOR TRAPS

The Kentucky Office of Financial Institutions (OFI) has highlighted 13 common scams it considers likely to be used against investors in 2006.

"Investment scams can be devastating for the investor who falls victim, both financially and emotionally," said Cordell Lawrence, Executive Director of OFI.

"Scams come in many disguises, but they all share a common goal of separating victims from their money. As regulators, we are especially concerned that as the first of the Baby Boomers turn 60 this year they not become trapped in bad investments as their retirement nears," Lawrence said.

OFI urges investors to ask the following questions before making any investment: Is the seller licensed and registered in your state? Has the seller given you written information that fully explains the investment? Are claims made for the investment realistic? Does the investment meet your personal investment goals?

Lawrence urged investors to contact OFI with questions about an investment product, broker or adviser, before making an investment. "One phone call can save a lot of money and misery," he said.

The investment traps are listed below. For more information, contact OFI at 1-800-223-2579 or visit the OFI Web site at www.ofi.ky.gov and click on *publications*.

- Affinity fraud
- Churning
- Equity indexed certificates of deposit
- Oil and gas investment fraud
- Personal information scams
- Prime bank schemes
- Pump and dump schemes
- Recovery rooms
- Registered high-interest promissory notes publicly advertised
- Sale and leaseback contracts
- Self-directed pension plans
- Unsuitable recommendations
- Variable annuities

Story Submitted by EPPC

Submit Your Stories

We'd like to hear from you ... stories of inspiration... stories of accomplishment. Share these touching stories with us!

You can e-mail these stories to us at

LoriR.Aragon@ky.gov

or

AmberL.Owens@ky.gov.

New Tool Makes Camping High Tech

The Kentucky Department of Parks received more than 1,000 reservations for 5,811 nights in the two days after its campground reservations system went live for the first time last week.

Campers could make reservations by telephone last week. They will be able to make reservations online for the first time this week.

The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington was the most popular camping destination in the first few days. It was followed by Barren River Lake State Resort Park in Lucas, Fort Boonesborough State Park, near Richmond, Green River State Park in Campbellsville, and Carter Caves State Resort Park in Olive Hill.

"The launch really exceeded my expectations," said Dan Maenza, the parks' Director of Customer Service. "We accepted reservations for nearly all of our 32 campgrounds. And, with very few exceptions, we were able to hold the time that callers spent waiting to just a few minutes."

In the past, the most frequent comment from potential state park campers was their reluctance to depend on the first-come, first-served method. They didn't want to load all their gear and food for a long weekend of camping only to be turned away at the gate. For this reason, they opted to camp at parks in other states. With the new reservation system in place, Kentucky State Parks officials believe there will be more people camping in their campgrounds.

"This is a great step forward for the state of Kentucky Parks system," said John Combs of Lexington, who camps at several parks, including the Kentucky Horse Park and Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. "As a camper, this will make camping more enjoyable and take away the stress of going on a 150-mile drive and not having to worry about getting a site when you get there."

Guests can reserve their sites up to a year in advance with a credit card by calling 1-888-4KYPARK.

Story Submitted by the Commerce Cabinet

When can I call to make a reservation?

Call center hours are as follows:

Non-Peak

Nov. 1 through March 31

9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday - Sunday

Peak

April 1 through Oct. 31st

9 a.m. – 10 p.m. Monday – Friday

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Saturday – Sunday

(Lab, continued from pg. 1)

"This is a tremendous opportunity for southeastern Kentucky," said Congressman Rogers. "The lab would be a magnet for scientists, technicians and engineers. It would also lay the foundation for increased economic investments in research that would benefit the area and the rest of the state. It will continue to payoff for years to come."

Currently, Plum Island Animal Disease Center (located on Plum Island, 840 acres that lie 1.5 miles from Orient Point, New York) is the nation's only designated facility for studying and responding to foreign animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and swine fever. However, the facility is becoming outdated and ever increasing in cost to maintain.

The consortium's Expression of Interest outlines for the Department of Homeland Security how the Pulaski County site meets or exceeds the four site-selection criteria detailed by the department. These factors are research capabilities, work force; land acquisition and construction, and community acceptance.

"It is true the competition for the lab is rigorous," said Governor Fletcher. "However, the Kentucky/Tennessee proposal has both scientific depth and research ingenuity that makes it truly cutting edge. I want the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Chertoff to know I want this lab in Kentucky and am prepared to do everything within my power to bring it home to the commonwealth."

The states of Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas and Alabama are among the states competing with Kentucky and Tennessee for the lab.

Story submitted by Governor's Office

KENTUCKY UNBRIDLED SPIRIT ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Three Kentucky middle school students were announced as winners of the essay contest. The winners were recognized in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. Jessica White of Fairview Middle School won first place, she received a \$400 savings bond and won \$1,000 for her school. Simeon Cox, of Rose Hill Middle School won second place. He received a \$200 savings bond and his school received \$750. And third place went to Bryson Miller of Wurtland Middle School. Miller received a \$100 savings bond and his school was awarded \$500.

In addition to the top three awards, 13 other students received honorable mentions and \$50 savings bonds for their essays. They included Jacob Adams, Verity Middle School; Rebekkah Bolt, Rose Hill; Oakley Caskey, Verity Middle School; Katie Evans, Raceland/Worthington Middle School; Justin Evans, Raceland/Worthington Middle School; Jacob Heishman, Verity Middle School; Kara Hopper, Rose Hill Middle School; Jessie Litteral, Boyd County Middle School; Marisa Lopez, Holy Family Middle School; Marissa Malone, Russell Middle School; Katelyn Miller, Verity Middle School; Lauren Miller, Verity Middle School; and Michael Sullivan, Boyd County Middle School.

All seventh graders in Boyd and Greenup counties were asked to participate by writing a 500-750 word essay, explaining what unbridled spirit meant to them. The top essays in each school were then sent to a three-judge panel, which evaluated each and chose the finalists.

The Kentucky Unbridled Spirit Essay Contest was created by Marathon Petroleum in conjunction with the company's placement of the brand on a large storage tank in Catlettsburg. "Marathon Petroleum is pleased

(Continued on pg. 8)

From Your Secretary

By: Erwin Roberts
Personnel Cabinet Secretary



Dear State Employees:

We're privileged to have choices in America. That's what freedom and liberty allow. Thankfully, our service members continue to work to protect our freedom and the ability we all have to make choices in this country, such as the right to vote. I am grateful for the opportunity to vote and I applaud all of you who take pride in voting. As state employees, the law gives us 4 hours' voting leave to ensure employees have time to go to the polls. This year, there is an unprecedented number of races on the ballot in Kentucky and exercising your right to vote is encouraged.

I'm so proud to live in a country where freedom reigns, and I am blessed to work with great people every day – people who serve the Commonwealth in projects large and small. Many of you have expressed pride in working for the government. You should be proud because you are serving the citizens everyday, either directly or indirectly. Take heart as you work diligently to develop plans for the state, from routine day to day activities to major projects and initiatives. Every meeting, every deadline, every vote is the means to an end goal.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of the opportunity to make your voice heard. It's your privilege and your responsibility as American citizens to vote. Get to know the candidates in your local, state and national races. Also, take advantage of the time Kentucky law provides each citizen to vote.

According to Kentucky law, "An employee who is eligible and registered to vote should be allowed upon prior request and approval, four hours, for the purpose of voting." The law adds, "Any qualified voter who exercises his right to voting leave under this section but fails to cast his vote under circumstances which did not prohibit him for voting may be subject to disciplinary action."

Four hours gives employees time to vote in their designated precincts, and then drive to work. I know some of our commutes are lengthy, and I appreciate your time and service to the state every day as you make that drive.

I want to thank every employee who has taken time out of their busy lives to exercise their freedoms. Voting is our only opportunity to choose our leaders, our laws and to help map Kentucky's future.

Sincerely,

Erwin Roberts
Secretary Personnel Cabinet

Lt. Governor Pence Announces Millions of Dollars Available for Federal Program

Lt. Governor and Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Stephen B. Pence announced funding is available through his cabinet for the federal program — Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Approximately \$5.6 million in grants is available representing a six percent increase from last year.

The VOCA program is for hands-on assistance to victims of crime, which includes expanding direct services to the victim. These services may include crisis intervention and follow-up, therapy, group counseling, information and referral, court advocacy and assistance with victim compensation claims.

Private/non-profit programs such as domestic violence shelters, children's advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, as well as prosecutor based advocates, and other advocacy programs that currently provide or want to provide direct service to victims of violent crime may obtain an application, at our web-site: <http://justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb/> or may contact the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet for additional information. Donna Langley, the VOCA Program Director, is located at 125 Holmes Street, Frankfort, Ky. 40601, and can be contacted at 502-564-3251 tel; 502-564-5244 fax; or email at donna.langley@ky.gov

The dates for the VOCA applications are: applications are available on-line May 1, 2006. They must be submitted by June 12, 2006; and, awards are scheduled to be announced in September 2006.

Story Submitted by Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

(Continued from pg. 1)



will create, and assess where the state can best support the local communities.

The task force will include of members from Governor Fletcher's cabinet and community leaders from in and around Fort Knox. Governor Fletcher has appointed Congressman Lewis as the task force chairman. Congressman Lewis has worked closely with the state's Commission on Military Affairs throughout the BRAC process.

"I am honored to serve as chairman of Governor Fletcher's Regional BRAC Committee," said Congressman Lewis. "The overwhelming support demonstrated by local citizens continues to cement Fort Knox's position as a premiere military installation with surrounding communities that are wonderful places to live and work."

Story submitted by Governor's Office

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(Continued from pg. 6)

with the response of the students and the quality of the essays," said Doug Sparkman, Catlettsburg Refining Plant Manager. "Reading the essays was like getting a lesson in Kentucky history. We believe the essays captured what the people of Kentucky had in mind when they chose Unbridled Spirit to represent the commonwealth."

Story Submitted by Governor's Office

BRAC TASK FORCE MEMBERS

1. Governor Ernie Fletcher
2. Chair, Congressman Ron Lewis (R-Cecilia) or designee
3. Co-Chair Major General John R. Tindall, Jr.
4. Adjutant General Donald Storm, member of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs
5. Brigadier General Julius Berthold, National Guard of Kentucky, member of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs
6. Senator Elizabeth Tori (R-Radcliff)
7. Representative Mike Weaver (D-Elizabethtown)
8. Representative Jimmie Lee (D-Elizabethtown)
9. Representative Gerald Lynn (R-Brandenburg)
10. County Judge-Executive Harry Berry of Hardin County
11. Mayor of Elizabethtown, David Willmoth, Jr.
12. Mayor of Radcliff, Sheila Enyart
13. Superintendent of Hardin County Schools. (TBA)
14. Citizen member, Brad Richardson, executive director of One Knox
15. Lincoln Trail Area Development District, Wendell Lawrence, executive director
16. Financial community, Bill Rissel CEO of Ft. Knox Credit Union.
17. Tourism/Hospitality Industry/Business, Edith Dupin, president of Elizabethtown/Hardin County Chamber of Commerce
18. Tourism/Hospitality Industry/Business, Jo Emary, executive director of Radcliff-Hardin County Chamber of Commerce
19. Kentucky Education Cabinet, Secretary Virginia Fox
20. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Secretary Bill Nighbert
21. Cabinet for Economic Development, Secretary Gene Strong

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